

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, 12-16, 18-23, 36 and 37 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-16, 18-23, 36 and 37 stand rejected. Claims 6, 7, 10, 12-23, 37, 40 and 41 are pending after entry of this response. Claims 6, 7, 10, 18 and 37 have been amended. Claims 1-5 and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 40 and 41 are new.

The Examiner has indicated in the Office Action that claims 6, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner is thanked for his comments in respect of these claims.

Applicant has rewritten claims 6, 7, 10 and 37 in independent form.

Claims 12 and 13 remain dependent on claim 10 which is now in independent form.

Previously pending claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled and rewritten as claims 40 and 41 so as to depend from claim 10.

Accordingly, claims 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 37, 40 and 41 are all in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to withdraw his objections against these claims as they are now in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

I. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ramsay et al (US 5,290,768).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's comments – for example Ramsay discloses a glycol composition which is an oxygenate, not a hydrocarbon as claimed.

Nevertheless to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 36 have been cancelled. Claim 3 was previously cancelled. As noted above, claims 4 and 5 have been rewritten as new claims 40 and 41 and amended to depend from independent claim 10, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable.

Accordingly the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 should not apply to claims 40 and 41.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

I. The Examiner rejected claims 14 – 16 and 18 – 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ramsay (supra) in view of Smith (US 5,417,287).

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Without acquiescing to the grounds of rejection, Applicant has amended claim 14 to depend from claim 10, which as noted above, the Examiner has indicated is allowable in independent form.

Claims 15, 16 and 18 – 23 are all ultimately dependent from claim 10.

Therefore the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) to claims 14 – 16 and 18 - 23.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed now to be allowable. Reconsideration of the examiner's objections and rejections, and an early notice of allowance of claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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